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**Letter dated 4 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council**

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to the President of the Security Council for the month of May by Charles Ghankay Taylor, President of the Republic of Liberia (see annex), which, regrettably, was inadvertently not delivered. The original letter was forwarded through the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Monrovia for onward transmission.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Lami **Kawah**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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## Annex to the letter dated 4 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Liberia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I wish to refer to my recent letter addressed to the Secretary-General and to the series of subsequent letters to the United Nations informing it of the armed attacks against Liberia from the territory of the Republic of Guinea, which have resulted in the occupation of portions of Liberia's northern territory of Lofa, the destruction of lives and property and the internal displacement of over 450,000 Liberians. The Government of Guinea, in disregard of the Economic Community of West African States and Mano River Union non-aggression protocols, has continued to support Liberian dissident forces of the former warring faction, the United Liberation Movement for Democracy in Liberia (ULIMO), in its armed aggression against the Republic of Liberia. From the testimonies of prisoners of war in Liberian government custody as well as captured British government materiel (with United Kingdom Ministry of Defence inscriptions), it has been confirmed that the Guinean Government, the Sierra Leonean Government through the Kamajors militia, and the British Government, which have supplied arms and ammunition to the dissident forces through the Kamajors, are militarily supporting the Liberian dissidents.

In the face of these armed attacks against the territory of Liberia and the consequent suffering of the Liberian people, my Government is under a moral and constitutional responsibility to defend and protect the Liberian nation. Furthermore, as a member of the United Nations and consistent with the provisions of Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, Liberia has a right to self-defence in the wake of armed aggression. Unfortunately, and despite my Government's representations to the United Nations, the Security Council has yet to fulfil its responsibility to maintain peace in Liberia.

The present Security Council arms embargo imposed on Liberia has impaired Liberia's capacity to defend itself against external armed aggression. The intent of resolution 1343 (2001) was never to deny the Liberian Government the means of self-defence in the wake of armed aggression.

Furthermore, we believe the Security Council is under an obligation to take action against Guinea and Sierra Leone for violation of paragraph 4 of resolution 1343 (2001), which calls upon Member States of the Mano River Union "to prevent armed individuals and groups from using their territory to prepare and commit attacks on neighboring countries ...".

In view of the foregoing, my Government herewith requests that the Security Council grant a limited waiver of the arms embargo to permit the Government of Liberia to import essential military supplies for the sole purpose of its self-defence. A listing of items to be included under this waiver will subsequently be forwarded to the Council upon its reaction to this request.

(*Signed*) Charles Ghankay **Taylor**